

# The Case for the Indian Schools

Address delivered before the Board of  
Management of M.S.C.C.,

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by

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In carrying out the instructions of the Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land, which appointed Archdeacon MacKay, Mr. T. M. Daly and myself to bring home the question of Indian Work to the Board of M.S.C.C., it may be well in the first instance to outline briefly the circumstances which induced the Provincial Synod to send us here.

These circumstances are briefly as follows: M.S.C.C. having in its Report for 1903 recommended "the Indian Homes as the most suitable object to which the offerings of the children can be devoted;" and a very considerable sum—amounting in 1905 to \$6,309.55—having been realized from this source; made, as announced in the Report for 1906, a "radical change" in its policy regarding this matter; and decided not in future to give credit towards apportionments for any sums designated to the support of the Schools. This action of the Board of M.S.C.C. was further emphasized by the resolution of 1907, declaring that "the Board considers it impossible to take up the maintenance of industrial and Boarding Schools among the Indians . . . or to continue work of that nature if withdrawn from by the C.M.S." It is certainly not putting it too strongly to assert that this action of the Board gave rise, at any rate in the Province of Rupert's Land, in which by far the largest number of Indian Residential Schools are situated, to the gravest anxiety as to the future of Indian work. This anxiety found expression at the meeting of the Provincial Synod at Regina in August, 1907, where, after a lengthy debate, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Whereas the C.M.S. is compelled to withdraw its support from our Indian Mission work;

"Whereas the M.S.C.C. has not yet taken the position thus vacated by the C.M.S.; and

"Whereas the Dioceses affected are as yet too heavily pressed to undertake this steadily increasing burden. It is hereby resolved that the M.S.C.C. be urged to take up the work of Indian Missions more heartily as the present crisis is a very grave one."

A copy of this resolution was sent to the Board of M.S.C.C., and in the Memorial presented to the General Synod in 1908 by 16 representatives of Western Dioceses, attention was called to the fact that no definite action on it had been so far taken by the Board. This inaction